



**County Administrative Office**  
**Governmental & Legislative Affairs**

**Josh Candelaria**  
Director

July 20, 2020

Honorable Cecilia Aguiar-Curry  
Chair, Assembly Committee on Local Government  
State Capitol, Room 5144  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Re: SB 474 (Stern) – As Amended June 19, 2020 – OPPOSE**

Dear Chairwoman Aguiar-Curry:

The County of San Bernardino regrettably opposes SB 474, which would prevent development of residential, commercial, retail and industrial projects in Very High Fire Severity Zones (VHFSZ) and the State Fire Responsibility Area (SRA).

While we recognize that more can and should be done at the local level when approving new developments to ensure safe design and/or direction to less-hazardous areas within a jurisdiction, SB 474's ban on any development in fire threat areas is far too broad and would fundamentally harm many communities that already exist in high fire threat areas.

Despite our opposition to this specific proposal, we remain committed partners in the statewide effort to improve land use policies, fire safety measures, disaster response, and housing availability in all areas of the state. California must take a holistic approach to housing development, incorporating housing production goals in a manner that mitigates wildfire risk to individual households as well as whole communities.

For the reasons listed above, the County opposes SB 474. If you have any questions regarding the County's position, please contact Josh Candelaria, Governmental and Legislative Director, at 909 387-4821 or [jcandelaria@sbcountry.gov](mailto:jcandelaria@sbcountry.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Curt Hagman".

Curt Hagman  
Fourth District Supervisor  
Chair, Board of Supervisors

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dawn Rowe".

Dawn Rowe  
Third District Supervisor  
Board of Supervisors

cc: Members and Consultants, Assembly Local Government Committee  
Honorable Henry Stern, California State Senate  
San Bernardino County State Legislative Delegation

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